

GCA Spring Extravaganza

The 2005 GCA Spring Extravaganza is on schedule for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 13-15. The Extravaganza is a weekend of paddling and camping, featuring a catered dinner on Friday evening, club sponsored trips on Saturday & Sunday, and the fine company of many, many GCA members. The event will again be hosted by Nelson's Nantahala Hideaway in Topton, NC, just up the road from NOC. Look for more information and a registration form in upcoming issues of *The Eddy Line*.

See you there!!



Winter Roll Practice on Hold

Joint GCA/AWC winter roll practice is on hold pending the ACA resolving the issue of event insurance coverage for the 2005 year. We hope to hear something soon. When the event goes back on schedule, notification will be sent out immediately on the GCA and AWC email lists.

When roll practice resumes, sessions will be held Mondays from 7:00 to 9:00 PM beginning the first Monday that insurance coverage is available and running through the last Monday in March, with the exception of the MLK holiday. Plan to take advantage of this great service provided by your club. Whether you want to learn to roll, practice your roll to stay sharp, teach a fellow paddler to roll, or work on other techniques such as wet exits, hand rolls, deep water re-entries, etc., the indoor heated pool is THE best place to hone these skills in the middle of the winter.

LOCATION: We will be returning to the Warren / Holifield Boys' & Girls' Club. The club is located at the corner of Berne and Marion Streets near Grant Park. To get there, exit I-20 at the Boulevard / Grant Park / Cyclorama exit southbound. Go about 1/2 mile to the traffic light at Berne Street — turn left. Go about another 1/2 mile and you'll see a large brick building on the left at the corner of Berne & Marion Streets. Turn left. You are at the Warren Club building. The pool entrance is in the rear. Enter through the gate on the far end of the building to unload boats.

Once again the ACA will carry our insurance for this event, and non-ACA members will be required to sign up for an ACA event membership at an additional cost to be determined by ACA under their 2005 coverage for the entire event (January thru March). This is in addition to the \$5.00 per session paid to defray pool rental expense. ACA members, have your ACA number available or pay for an event membership.

Louie Boulanger is our Roll Practice Coordinator. If you have questions about roll practice, or would like to volunteer to help, either with instruction or with keeping track of money and waivers, call Louie at 404.373.2907.

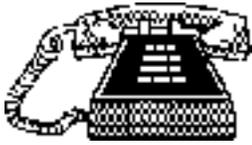
BESURE YOUR BOAT IS CLEAN. A hose is available at the door to rinse out river mud, old bird nests or cobwebs.



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Who Ya Gonna Call?

The following list is provided for your convenience:

For general information about the club - Call the club telephone

number, 770.421.9729, and leave a message. Someone will get back to you.

To volunteer to help with club activities - Call President Gina Johnson at 770.971.1542 or contact the committee chairperson for your area of interest.

For information on payment of dues or membership status - Call Treasurer Ed Schultz at 404.266.3734.

To sign up for a club trip - Call the trip coordinator at the number listed on the activity list.

To sign up to lead a club trip - Call Cruise Master Steve Reach at 770.760.7357.

For change of address or for *Eddy Line* subscription

information - Call Ed Schultz at 404.266.3734.

If you didn't receive your *Eddy Line* - Call Ed Schultz at 404.266.3734.

For information on GCA clinics - Call the clinic coordinator listed on the clinic schedule, or call Training Director Jim Albert at 770.414.1521.

For information on winter roll practice - Call Louis Boulanger at 404.373.2907.

For information on placing want ads in *The Eddy Line* - Call Newsletter Editor Allen Hedden at 770.426.4318, or see "To place an ad" in the Want Ad section of *The Eddy Line*.

For information on commercial ads - Call Newsletter Editor Allen Hedden at 770.426.4318.

For information on videos and books available from the GCA Library - Call GCA Librarian Denise Colquitt at 770.854.6636.



Board of Directors Meetings

The Georgia Canoeing Association Board of Directors meetings are held quarterly during the last month of the quarter (March, June, September, December). The time, date and location is announced in *The Eddy Line*. All members are encouraged to attend. If you have an item for discussion, please call GCA President Gina Johnson at 770.971.1542 so she can add your item to the agenda. Attending Board meetings is a great way to become more involved with the GCA. Your participation would be much appreciated.



GCA Executive Committee

President	Gina Johnson
Vice President	Vincent Payne
Secretary	Tom Bishop
Treasurer	Ed Schultz
Member Services Chair	Gabriella Schlidt
Recreation Chair	Gretchen Mallins
Resource Development Chair	Knox Worde
River Protection Chair	Don Kinser
Training Chair	Jim Albert

Submitting *Eddy Line* Material

Deadline for material to be submitted for publication in the next *Eddy Line* is the fifth of the month, i.e., for the January issue, material should be submitted no later than December fifth. The editor must receive all articles, trip reports and want ads by the deadline or they MAY NOT be published in the next issue. To submit material via EMAIL, send to gacanoe@mindspring.com. The text of an article can be placed in the body of a message, and photo images can be attached to the message as attached files. To submit material via COMPUTER DISK submit articles or trip reports on a 3-1/2 inch IBM/DOS formatted disk as an ASCII text file labeled with a ".txt" file extension, or as a text file on a 3-1/2 inch high density MacIntosh formatted disk, and include a printed copy (Disks returned only if requested). To submit material via U.S. MAIL, send to: **Allen Hedden, 2923 Piedmont Drive, Marietta, GA 30066**. All classified ads will be run for two months unless otherwise requested. Hand-written or phoned in material CANNOT be accepted. Contact Newsletter Editor **Allen Hedden at 770.426.4318** for questions. Thanks for your cooperation.



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UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

January

8 Chattooga West Fork	Class 1-2, Trained Beginner	Roger Nott	770.536.6923
15-16 Oconee Camping (Note 4)	Class 1-2, Trained Beginner	Lindsay Meeks	404.872.5211
15-17 MLK Weekend FL Trip (Note 3)	Smooth Water	Mo Friedman	770.469.8414
15 Nantahala (Note 1)	Class 2-3, Intermediate	John Scott	770.421.2451
17 Little River Canyon (AL) (Note 2)	Class 3-4 Advanced	Dane White	256.435.3827
22 War Woman Creek	Class 3-4, Advanced	Roger Nott	770.536.6923

February

17-21 Ocala National Forest (FL) (Note 5) Smooth Water		Haynes & Gina Johnson	770.971.1542
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Note 1: Weather permitting (temps above 40 deg.)

Note 2: Little River Canyon, Upper 2 and/or Chair Lift sections.

Note 3: Ichetucknee Springs, Crystal and Chassahowitzka Rivers. See details elsewhere in the newsletter.

Note 4: Overnight kayak touring trip, in conjunction with GSU. Transportation and boats may be available through GSU. (students and alumni get preference.) Camping and kayak touring experience required.

Note 5: Camping at Juniper Springs Campground. Paddling Juniper Springs, Silver Springs, Oklawaha and other opportunities depending on the weather and the water. See details elsewhere in the newsletter.

Your Trip Could Be Listed in This Space — Call the Cruise Master and Sign Up Now!!

Signing Up: Call the trip coordinator listed to sign up for trips. Most trip coordinators will move a trip to an alternate venue if the water levels and conditions for a particular trip are not favorable. Call early in the week to ensure you get a spot on the trip, and in consideration for the coordinators, PLEASE avoid calling late in the evening.

Training Trips are a combination of recreation and training designed to attract those boaters who have completed a formal training clinic and would like some on-the-river time with instructors practicing what was learned in the clinic and expanding skill levels.

To Volunteer To Lead Trips: Call the Cruise Master, Steve Reach at 770.760.7357. As usual, we need trip coordinators for all types of trips, from flat water to class 5 white water. Our excellent trip schedule depends on the efforts of volunteers, so get involved and sign up to coordinate a trip on your favorite river today! The GCA needs YOU!

Chattooga Trips are limited to 12 boats on ANY section on ANY trip, club trip or private (USFS regulation). Your cooperation in protecting this National Wild and Scenic River is appreciated.

Roll Practice: Monday evenings from 7:00-9:00 PM, January thru March, at the Warren / Holifield Boys' & Girls' Club Pool. See announcement in this issue of *The Eddy Line*. (Roll Practice is on hold until ACA gets its insurance issues cleared up for the 2005 year — stay tuned for updates.)



GCA Library Items

The GCA Library has many videotapes and books available to any GCA member. All you have to do is call GCA Librarian Denise Colquitt at 770.854.6636 to find out what is available. The cost is \$3.00 per tape or book for postage and handling.

Any / all donations or loans to the library are welcome. (Please, no bootleg video copies.) Send them to:

Denise Colquitt
3794 Glenloch Road
Franklin, GA 30217

The following items are currently available:

Videos:

Canoes by Whitesell
Cold, Wet & Alive
Expedition Earth
Faultline (Will Reeves)
First Descents (North Fork Payette)
Grace Under Pressure (learning the kayak roll)
I Said Left, Stupid: A Video Guide to the Chattooga River (Sect. 2 & 3)
In the Surf
Introduction to Canoeing
Mohawk Canoes (promotional w/detailed boat outfitting instructions)
Mohawk Whitewater Canoes (promotional w/detailed outfitting instructions)
Only Nolan (Promotional, Canoe Technique)
Path of the Paddle: Quiet Water
Path of the Paddle: White Water
Performance Sea Kayaking (the basics & beyond)
Play Daze
Retendo

Solo Playboating!
The C-1 Challenge
The Middle Fork of the Salmon River (Idaho) — by Photographic Expeditions
Trailside: White Water Canoeing the Chattooga River
Vortex -- low cost storm water sampler
Waterwalker (Bill Mason)
Whitewater Self Defense

Books:

A Canoeing and Kayaking Guide to the Streams of Florida
A Canoeing & Kayaking Guide to the Streams of Kentucky
A Canoeing and Kayaking Guide to the Streams of Ohio, Vols I & II
A Canoeing & Kayaking Guide to the Streams of Tennessee-Vol I & II
A Hiking Guide to the Trails of Florida
A Paddler's Guide to the Obed Emory Watershed
ACA Canoeing & Kayaking Instructors Guide
Alabama Canoe Rides
AMC White Water Handbook
American Red Cross Canoeing & Kayaking
Arkansas information (assorted)
Basic River Canoeing
Brown's Guide to Georgia
Buyer's Guide 1993 (Canoe Magazine)
Buyer's Guide 1994 (Paddler Magazine)
Buyer's Guide 1996 (Paddler Magazine)
California Whitewater - A Guide to the Rivers
Canoe Racing (Marathon & Down River)
Canoeing Wild Rivers
Carolina Whitewater (Western Carolina)
Endangered Rivers & the Conservation Movement
Florida information (assorted)

Georgia Mountains
Godforsaken Sea: Racing the World's Most Dangerous Waters
Happy Isles of Oceana: Paddling the Pacific
Homelands: Kayaking the Inside Passage
Idaho Whitewater
Indiana Canoeing Guide
Kentucky Wild Rivers
Missouri Ozark Waterways
Northern Georgia Canoe Guide
Ohio County Maps & Recreational Guide
Paddle America (Guide to trips & outfitters)
Paddle to the Amazon - The World's Longest Canoe Trip
Paddling SC-Palmetto State River Trails
Path of the Paddle
People Protecting Rivers
Pole, Paddle & Portage
River Rescue
River Safety Anthology
River's End (Stories)
Sea Kayaking Canada's West Coast
Song of the Paddle
Southeastern Whitewater
Southern Georgia Canoeing
The Georgia Conservancy Guide to the North
The Lower Canyons of the Rio Grande
The Mighty Mulberry-A Canoeing Guide
They Shoot Canoes, Don't they?
White Water Tales of Terror
WhiteWaterTrips (British Columbia & Washington)
Wildwater (Sierra Club Guide)
WildwaterWestVirginia
Youghiogeny-Appalachian River
Maps:
The Big South Fork

Announcements

GCA Email List

The GCA email list has at this printing about 300 subscribers. Here's how the list works:

By sending an email to "gcalist@yahoogroups.com" you automatically reach all subscribers to the list with the message. Only those subscribed to the list can send email to the list.

To subscribe to the list, send an email to "gcalist-subscribe@yahoogroups.com". You will receive a verification that you are subscribed and a welcome message with instructions on how to unsubscribe and various other commands available through the service. Be sure to save this information for future reference.

All GCA announcements and forwarded email from other sources concerning new river access issues, late



breaking news items of interest to the paddling community, etc., will be sent out via the GCA email list at gcalist@yahoogroups.com. If you want to receive any of this information, please subscribe to the list using the above instructions. Also, don't be shy about using the list to send out or to request information about paddling related topics, rivers you're interested in, etc.

By the way, should you change or lose your email ID, please take a minute to "unsubscribe" your old ID and/or to "subscribe" your new one. ✂

GCA Web Page

Check it out at <http://www.georgiacanoe.org>. We are continually adding information and links of value to paddlers. Send your ideas for updates to the GCA web committee at gcaweb@gmail.com. Membership applications, GCA waivers and other forms for use by members are posted on the site.

The recently revamped web site is attracting a lot of public attention. We have been receiving much email from interested potential club members and sponsors. Help us get the word out by promoting the web site to your friends, family and co-workers. We hope to use this tool to generate a lot of interest in all our activities, environmental and access issues, competition and public awareness. Use the "Contact" page as an easy, central way to communicate by email with GCA officers and other volunteers. ✂

Support Our GCA Supporters

The GCA web site now features a GCA Supporters web page with links to the companies that support GCA financially by advertising with us. Help out those who help us out — patronize our financial supporters!!

Thanks! ✂

Mail Failure Notices

Each month the *Electronic Eddy Line* receives numerous mail failure notices against members' email IDs. If your email address comes back with a mail failure notice, you will be deleted from the recipient list for the *Electronic Eddy Line* until we get a request to be added back with a current email address.

Also, if we get a number of mail failure notices against an email ID on the GCA Email List, that ID is automatically unsubscribed by the listserv software. It is the subscriber's responsibility to maintain the subscription with the current email ID. Your cooperation is appreciated — it makes less work for our all volunteer staff. ✂

Weekday Paddlers

Did you know that GCA has a list of paddlers available to paddle during the week? We now have 70+ entries on the weekday paddlers list, including members who are retired persons, those with variable or non-standard work schedules, those available to paddle weekdays when school is out (students and teachers), and even those who have a lot of vacation time to burn and want to take vacation days for paddling. The list includes members who paddle smooth water as well as all classes of white water.

If you would like to be included in the list, please call Allen Hedden at 770.426.4318 and leave your name, phone number, days of the week you are available to paddle, and class of water (flat, I thru V) that you are interested in paddling. You will then receive an up-to-date copy of the list. The list will be re-published quarterly (January,

Canoe Outfitting & Repair

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Saddles, thigh straps, air bags, knee pads, skid plates
and more

ABS repair for worn, cracked or broken hulls

Canoe Instruction

Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced levels

Call Allen Hedden 770.426.4318

Email canoeist@mindspring.com

April, July, October).

Updates are available by request through the GCA phone line. If you received your copy of the list more than 3 months ago, you should request an updated copy. There have been considerable changes to the list. To receive an up-to-date copy, call the GCA phone line at 770.421.9729 and leave your name and address with a request for the updated list. ✂

Upcoming Events of Interest

January 15-16 — Shoot the 'Hooch Wild Water Training Camp and Race — Roswell, GA, Training Clinic 1/15-16, Race 1/16, John Pinyerd, 770.977.7603, email jpinyerd@cs.com, or Chris Hipgrave, email hipgrave@earthlink.net.

February 27 — NRC Glacier Breaker — Nantahala River, Wesser, NC, Nantahala Racing Club, 828.488.2175 ext 108, email rhino@main.nc.us.

March 5-6, 2005 — US Wild Water Team Trials/Nantahala River NC — The Nantahala Racing Club has been awarded the 2005 USA Wild Water Senior Team Trials (and Eastern Team Trials for Juniors). 828.488.2175 ext 108, email rhino@main.nc.us.

March 12-13 — US Open Wild Water Race — Nantahala River, Wesser, NC, Sprint - 3/12, Classic - 3/13, Nantahala Racing Club, 828.488.2176 ext. 108, email rhino@main.nc.us.

April 23-24 — Southeastern US White Water Championships / 7th Annual Intercollegiate Championships — Nantahala River, Wesser, NC. Sprint, Slalom & Free Style / Rodeo - 4/23, Classic Wild Water - 4/24, John Pinyerd, 770.977.7603, email jpinyerd@cs.com, or Nantahala Racing Club 828.488.2176 ext. 108, email rhino@main.nc.us.

April 30, May 1 — Junior National Slalom Team Trials Nantahala River, NC — Nantahala Racing Club, 828.488.2176 ext. 108, email rhino@main.nc.us.

June 10-12 — Senior National Slalom Team Trials —

Durango, CO.

June 17-18 — US National Wild Water Championships — Arkansas River, Salida, CO, Ed Loeffel, e_loeffel@hotmail.com or Chad Hixon, chad@musclebus.com, www.fibark.net.

June 19 — Fibark Classic Wild Water / Down River — Arkansas River, Salida, CO (26 miles), Ed Loeffel, e_loeffel@hotmail.com or Chad Hixon, chad@musclebus.com, www.fibark.net.

July 16-17 — Age Group Slalom Nationals / US Cup 1 — Carlton, MN.

July 23-24 — US Slalom Cup 2 and 3 — Wausau, WI.

July 30-31 — US Slalom Jr Olympics / US Cup 4 — South Bend, IN.

August 21 — U.S. Slalom National Championships — Kern River, CA.

September 26 — Animal Upper Gauley Race — Gauley River — Summersville, WV, www.gauleyrace.com. ✂

GCA Trip Sign-up Guidelines

Some considerations to be made when signing up for GCA trips and activities:

Be considerate of our trip coordinators (TCs). Avoid calling late at night, or at the last minute, to sign up for a club trip. Many of the more popular trips fill up very quickly. Calling early in the week, or even earlier, helps to ensure you get a spot on the trip and helps the TC to make plans. We do not have an easy time getting people to coordinate trips, and these little annoyances help to discourage the few we get from repeating their favor.

Please do not attempt to sign up for a trip via email. Many potential trip participants may not be aware that participation in club trips is not guaranteed. Two major reasons for this are that trip sizes may be limited because of many factors, and there is a de facto screening process that takes place when someone calls to sign up for a club trip. Boaters are allowed to participate in a club trip solely at the discretion of the trip coordinator.

Trip size limitations may take place due to river conditions, river characteristics, safety considerations, governmental agency regulations, permit systems, parking availability at put-ins & take-outs, or trip coordinator preference (not wanting to deal with the logistics of a 40 person trip). Again, we don't want to do anything to discourage these TCs from repeating their favor, so try to cooperate with these limitations.

For the same reasons, avoid just showing up for a club trip without signing up with the trip coordinator. Calling and leaving a voice mail message or sending an email does not constitute signing up. TCs often do not get

last minute messages or emails before leaving for their trips. And if the trip is already maxed out, you may get to the river and not be able to go on the trip.

The screening process for potential trip participants is a tool to help avoid putting TCs and other trip participants, and indeed the callers themselves, in the awkward and often unsafe position of dealing with trip participants who may unnecessarily get into trouble on a club trip. Other than because of trips being full, TCs may decline to have a caller participate in a trip and gently suggest that perhaps she/he should consider not participating, or signing up for a trip of a lower difficulty level, if they suspect that the caller may not have the necessary skills, experience, proper type of boat or outfitting, adequate paddling or rescue equipment, proper protective clothing, or any number of other things that may affect the caller's ability to participate in the trip without placing him- or herself in an unsafe position. This avoids affecting the quality of the trip experience for the TC and the other participants, as well as not jeopardizing the safety of the screenee.

As a potential trip participant, if you find yourself "screened out" of a trip, try to ascertain why, so you can work toward remedying the conditions that cast doubts on your ability to participate safely. Ask for suggestions that may help you prepare for future trips of a particular difficulty level.

As a trip coordinator, try to be honest but tactful when screening potential participants for your trips. Paddlers' egos bruise very easily — we are mostly a proud and independent lot. If it comes down to it, though, a bruised ego is better than a lost or broken boat, a severe injury, or worse. And no one wants their ego to cause problems for an entire group.

One thing that should NEVER be done — Don't sign up for a trip and then invite / allow other people to come with you on the trip. The correct protocol is to have the other people individually contact the trip coordinator directly to sign up for the trip. Again, we want to be considerate of the TCs so they will continue to coordinate trips, and "surprises" are not a good way to do this.

Lastly, please try to be on time at the designated meeting place. The club has a 15 minute rule regarding waiting for late-comers for any club event, so if you show up late and miss the group, PLEASE don't get huffy with the trip coordinator.

Your cooperation and understanding in adhering to these guidelines are very much appreciated. ✂

"In America the young are always ready to give to those who are older than themselves the full benefit of their inexperience."
- Oscar Wilde.

MLK Weekend Smooth Water Paddling

by Morris Friedman, The Vagabond

January 15, 16, 17, 2005, Ichetucknee Springs, Crystal and Chassahowitzka Rivers

Join us for the annual paddling of Florida spring fed waters. We meet Saturday, January 15, and paddle Ichetucknee Springs, then travel to Crystal River for an up close encounter with Manatees. Some of the paddlers intend to remain a few more days and paddle the Rainbow and Withlacoochee Rivers east of Crystal River in Dunellon, and eat BBQ at Skeet's in downtown Dunellon.

Opportunities for viewing wildlife are abundant and the water clarity is very good. Bring snorkel equipment if you want an even better view of the Manatees. The water is 72 degrees year-round so bring cold water gear if you intend to swim. More info can be found at www.geocities.com/vagabondmo/gcamlk. The address is case sensitive, so use small letters. Drop me an e-mail or call for more info or questions — Vagabond@yahoo.com, 770.469.8414. ✂

Cartecay Chili Run

With frost in the air and winter coming, it can only mean the 19th Annual Cartecay River Chili Run on January 1, 2005, is coming fast. A proud tradition started when Gary Foster stated he would do the run on 1-1-87.

Mountaintown Outdoor Expeditions has hosted the event under all conditions possible. A great day on the river followed by a great chili cook-off or bowl of chili can't be beat. Nothing can top bringing in the New Year with the dip of a paddle and the dip of a spoon with the originals.

Enter your favorite chili recipe in the Chili Cook-Off! Shuttles from 10 am, chili from 12 noon, and chili cook-off results at 3 PM. See you then, or for more info call 706.635.2524.

Always here for paddling folks, Jay. ✂

Presidents' Day Weekend Florida Trip

Attention all Club Members! Haynes and I will be coordinating a weekend of smooth water paddling at Ocala National Forest over Presidents' Day Weekend in February. We plan to drive down Thursday, February 17, and return home on Monday, February 21. We will be camping at Juniper Springs Campground. Reservations can be made at www.reserveamerica.com.

We will be paddling Juniper Springs, Silver Springs, Oklawaha, and other opportunities depending on the

weather and the water. If you are interested, please contact us at gjohnson@naibg.com or 770.971.1542.

Thank you, Gina Johnson. ✂

February 25-26

Don't Miss the National Paddling Film Festival — 2005

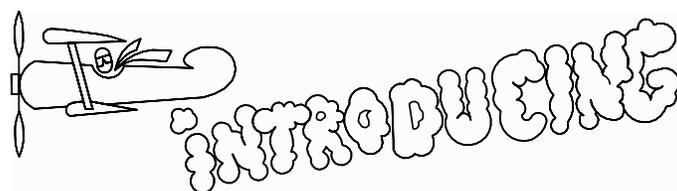
The National Paddling Film Festival is an appreciation of human powered water sport. This annual event and gathering in Lexington, Kentucky, is a judged competition of amateur and professional paddle sport image artists submitting entries of film, video and digital images.

For 22 years the NPFF has existed to bring together paddling enthusiasts from across the country and the world to share their talents and paddling experiences plus help generate fun and funds for waterway conservation. In 2004, the NPFF attracted over 40 amateur, accomplished and professional competitors with entries depicting paddling footage of rivers and seas from virtually every corner of the world. Exciting action and awesome scenery combine with genius, satire, silliness, insight, instruction, humor, tragedy, drama and passion. The National Paddling Film Festival is a visual paddle sport feast and celebration that should not be missed. Attend the festival and help judge the entries while watching the best and freshest in paddle sport image artistry.

Helping the film festival celebrate 22 years of presenting the best in paddle sport images, the 2005 NPFF is honored to have as special guest, world champion paddler, accomplished white water coach and instructor, award winning video producer/author, Olympic commentator and film maker, Kent Ford. He will be presenting a talk about "How Condoms Make Paddling Fun". Kent describes how condoms are a common denominator to both the Olympics and to the history of instructional paddling videos worldwide. Kent's talk at the film festival provides a sampling of the humorous highlights of instructional paddling videos worldwide, from early 1930s silent films, to contemporary instruction in canoeing and kayaking. In addition, he will share video footage of his foreruns at the Athens Olympic White Water Kayak events.

For up-to-date information check the website: <http://www.surfbwa.org/npff>. ✂

"Sunshine is delicious, rain is refreshing, wind braces us up, snow is exhilarating; there is really no such thing as bad weather, only different kinds of good weather."
- John Ruskin.



Welcome New Members — Directory Additions

The following is a list of all members who have joined the club since the last update. We will try to include this information on an on-going basis so you can add new members to your Directory. New members are the life blood and the future of the club. Thank you for joining us!!

Bowman, Richard & Rachel
1084 Mountain View Drive
Marietta GA 30062
770-425-0911
404-514-5585
770-443-3615
rfbowman@mindspring.com

1538 Bonds Lake Road
Danielsville GA 30633
706-789-3376

Poore, Bobby
2331 Rabbit Farm Circle
Loganville GA 30052
770-554-9095
770-605-3798

bpoore@weathelyinc.com

Thurman, Christopher, W.R.
11 Highland Walk
Carrollton GA 30116
770-838-1737
770-823-1049
thurmanfamily99@earthlink.net

Hayes, Michael

From the Soggy Clipboard of the Cruise Master

by Steve Reach

I recently updated my contact list for trip coordinators and whittled down the email list to the 40 or so individuals that operated at least one GCA trip in the last year. Now I want you please to stop and think about the statistical implications for a second. There are about 800 current GCA memberships on our role, comprising about 2000 members. Last year 40 of those people took on all of the planned trip activity we published in *The Eddy Line*. Giving credit where due, a handful of notable others also volunteered to ramrod spur-of-the-moment trips using the club email list. That makes over 95% of the club membership that either did not feel confident about their abilities in taking on the coordination of a club trip, could not fit it into their schedule, could not pull it off for other reasons, or just didn't bother.

I'm not yelling at anyone in particular here, but this is a situation I'd dearly love to improve.

Now, I understand after a year of this what constraints exist. The greatest problem is that you have to submit your trip for publication a month or more prior to trip date. Planning anything 6 to 10 weeks ahead is a challenge for most people who aren't independently wealthy or who do not have the kind of lifestyle (due to job, family, church, etc.) that allows them to be flexible with their free time. I have a couple ideas how we can improve this that

I'm working on but I'd like your input as well. Currently I'm examining how some of the other clubs schedule their trips, looking for best practices.

'Fear of Flying', contrary to what you might think, is not that great an obstacle. For a rank beginner, it's understandable and actually it makes good common sense to paddle your first season or two as a passive participant to hone your skills, build your confidence, and become familiar with the dynamics of a club trip. After that, trip coordination becomes an easy, painless and fun experience.

The problem though is this; there is a tendency among paddlers, once they have graduated to intermediate white water and above, to avoid club trips altogether and instead spend their paddle time with a select group of buddies. This is also understandable, since at that level you want to go with a smaller group that will challenge you to improve your skills, watch your back, and give you more flexibility in the amount of time you stick around working one river feature or another.

To those paddlers I would submit: think of how you got there. You are at a level now to BE that mentor to the less experienced paddlers, that person that helped you so much when you were a newbie, that trip coordinator that inspired you back when you split your river time worrying about 1> whether or not you would flip over and drown, and 2> what could you have been thinking to want to get into paddling at all. To you this is my challenge: 2 days this year. That's all. If I could get half of you experienced

paddlers to step up to this, the trip calendar would be booked solid.

Something else I'd like to hear about from ALL of you: How much did you enjoy your club this year? Did you get to do all the paddling you wanted to? What was good and what needed work, as far as the GCA's act is concerned? What would you like to see more of in 2005?

Last season most of the trips I coordinated were on different sections of Chattahoochee from Buford Dam down to Paces Ferry. I plan to keep doing that this coming season, but there's also some neglected runs out here I want to explore. Look for trips on the Oconee, Alcovy, and Yellow Rivers; those will generally be flat water expeditions. The Alcovy north of Covington is prime wetland

swamp and should make for some excellent solitude and critter watching. Also, if the rain holds, we have to go do the Upper Toccoa again this spring, that's a great, long class 2 wilderness paddle when there's enough water. I am also going to add a couple NC white water runs into my mix, including a Nantahala run or two. But enough about me, now — what are you planning?

Coordinating club trips expands your horizons. You don't need to be an expert paddler. We'll help you conquer the unknown and give you the tools you need to run a great trip. Join the Team!! Call me at 770.760.7357 or e-mail gca_trip@yahoo.com to participate.

See ya after we run the dang blang shuttle....

- STEVE.



Wildlife Making Gains

Dam Removal on the Cahaba

by Katherine Bouma, News staff writer, E-mail: kbouma@bhamnews.com.

Monday, November 15, 2004. One of the purest and most unaltered rivers in Alabama is regaining populations of

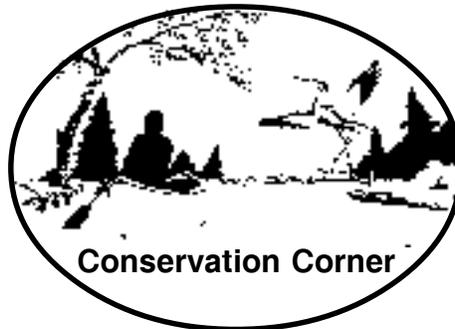
fish, snails and other wildlife following removal of a dam that for decades stopped up the river. The 194-mile Cahaba River often is called the state's longest undammed river because it flows 154 miles south of the dam at U.S. 280 without major impediment. But for decades there was one forgotten obstruction along that route. Call it a dam, call it a bridge or, like the locals, call it the Marvel Slab.

By any name, the concrete block plugged the river, with water pouring through 3-foot culverts. Fish couldn't swim upstream to spawn, Cahaba lilies were flooded and the movement of aquatic life through the area was restricted.

No one knows when the bridge was built in the Cahaba, partly because it was planned quietly and without a permit. Adding to the mystery, the land on both sides was owned by a coal company at the time and was not open to public access.

Sometime, probably between 1960 and 1965, the company decided it could save 20 miles through mountainous dirt roads if its trucks could cross the Cahaba straight through the shallows near the Bibb County community of Marvel.

"They took a place where shoal was historically used as a river crossing and put this concrete crossing on top of



it," said Randy Haddock, field director for the Cahaba River Society.

The concrete slab was built with 46 culverts. If enough water pooled behind it, some could slowly cascade downstream. But nothing could travel upstream. "There's no way for fish to go up there," said Paul Freeman, freshwater ecologist for The Nature Conservancy of Alabama. "They can't vertically jump upstream."

Freeman said he's watched red-horses, bottom-feeding fish known for their stamina and determination, bang their heads against the barrier in futile efforts to get to their ancestral breeding grounds. Occasionally, as after Hurricane Ivan, the area would flood and fish could swim freely. But that wasn't often and rarely came at the right time, Freeman said.

"We don't have salmon in our stream that can jump over big barriers," he said. "The things we're interested in are little shiners that are 3 inches long."

Reclaiming the shoals:

About 10 years ago, Haddock began talking about removing the dam to unify the river. The river bottom belongs to the state of Alabama, which was willing to help reclaim the shoals. But landowners on both sides of the river would have to cooperate for heavy equipment to be brought in to smash the dam and haul away the pieces. A company that owned land on one side did not want to be involved.

Then three years ago, a unit of the Presbyterian Church USA bought that property. Officials were glad to help with the river's restoration, even allowing the rubble to be buried on its land. "It's what I think God wants us to be doing, which is being good stewards," said the Rev. Robert Hay, associate executive for nurture at the

Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley.

Still, it took three years to pull together the pieces: The Nature Conservancy coordinated efforts to get federal money from the Army Corps of Engineers and grants from the World Wildlife Fund. It was one of the most ambitious river restoration projects in the Southeast, Freeman said, and nearly every aquatic, wildlife and river group within driving distance got involved.

By removal time late last month, scientists from Mississippi, Tennessee and Georgia had joined federal, state and other scientists in Alabama. Local environmental groups, the Tennessee Aquarium and Auburn University sent staff to count and identify species, while experts from the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, The Nature Conservancy and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service snorkeled to move away from the wrecking crew more than 10,000 snails and mussels, including five endangered species found within 10 feet of the bridge.

The Cahaba is one of the most diverse rivers on the continent, with hundreds of species of fish, mussels, snails and insects. The Nature Conservancy's survey of rivers found it to be one of eight hotspots of diversity in the United States. But it is also one of the most imperiled. U.S. Fish and Wildlife counts 64 rare or endangered species on the Cahaba, 13 of them found nowhere else.

Barrier to life:

Dams are among the most insidious threats to a river, particularly a river adapted for shallow, fast-running water. A dam not only blocks spawning fish, but also keeps fish from carrying mussel eggs upstream. Without a fish host, mussels in their parasitic egg form cannot hatch or move throughout the river.

Possibly most important to the river itself, the Marvel Slab flooded three of the shallow-water shoals of the sort that once made Alabama famous for its mussels and snails. The Cahaba lilies disappeared from the area, along with thousands of snails. Upstream, mussels grew fat and old with no young taking their place. On the south side, snails and mussels disappeared, possibly drowned, maybe eaten by the fish trapped by the concrete wall.

"It's kind of a wasteland of snails below the slab and a paradise for the snails above the slab," Haddock said.

Scientists hope lilies will soon repopulate the shoals in the Marvel-area stretch of the Cahaba. They say they are confident that the large rocks soon will be covered by hundreds of snails. And they are satisfied that at a time when habitat loss is said to be the number one environmental problem, one small piece of one special river is back.

- From the *Birmingham News*, via the *Birmingham Canoe*

Club email list.



Goodbye, Cumberland

by Suzanne Welander

I can't help but voice my outrage at the proposed legislation opening the Cumberland Island wilderness area to motorized tours. Sure, conflicts exist — the National Park Service, however, has shown no interest in crafting a mutually acceptable solution that works within the provisions of the Wilderness Act.

It is unconscionable that our legislators can't see fit to protect what little wilderness remains in our state. That our children will never have the opportunity to wrap themselves in nature's complete solitude — or to be reminded that we are all ultimately subordinate to nature — is a crime. The sole underlying motive of this legislation is to officially and permanently allow Greyfield Inn permission to operate and expand their business on the Island. All other justifications for this bill are shams, Trojan horses.

* Sen. Chambliss says that the legislation is needed to allow the NPS to drive through wilderness areas to maintain historic properties on the island. However, the NPS is not currently prohibited from doing so, neither by the current Wilderness designation nor the condition of the existing roads.

* The NPS supports the legislation as means to provide easy access to historic sites to the non-hiking or non-paddling public. However, both sites mentioned (Plum Orchard and The Settlement) are currently or potentially accessible via ferry service, removing the necessity for road access.

* The North Cut Road would be de-commissioned as wilderness area as a result of this legislation, opening up the possibility for a motorized loop tour that returns to Sea Camp via the beach. The North Cut Road has nothing to do with reaching either of the historic sites. Period. The only reason for de-commissioning the North Cut Road is to expand permission for vehicles on Cumberland's beach, potentially the most harmful intrusion into the wilderness protection given sensitive turtle and bird habitats.

The truth is that the NPS has been using their scheduled "maintenance" runs to justify the use of a passenger van to provide motorized shuttle service for tourists to the historical sites. In July, the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals rebuked the NPS for providing this service as not allowed under the Wilderness Act protection. Rather than comply with this decision, our state's legislators have chosen to circumvent it by removing the roads



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from the federal protection.

Tom and I spent 4 days on Cumberland earlier this month. We observed plenty of vehicle traffic on the current roads, even a NPS truck parked on a wilderness "foot traffic only" trail well off of the road and deep in the wilderness area. Tractor tire prints on the Main Road and the pristine condition of the exterior of Plum Orchard belie the truth — maintenance doesn't appear to be suffering one bit under the current protections. The Plum Orchard mansion, at least its exterior, is in better condition than my house!!

Perhaps the most disturbing sight was the private vehicle that passed a flock of birds resting on the beach — then turned around and headed into the heart of the flock

in order to frighten them all into flight. Is this the kind of molestation we want to encourage in a "wilderness" area?

There are plenty of places that can be easily reached by motorized vehicle — precious few remain off-limits and in their native state.

Cumberland's not perfect, but it has been on a trajectory that will increase its isolation over time. De-commissioning 30 foot swaths of roads through the wilderness and allowing the National Park Service to contract with concessionaires to provide tours/transportation cracks opens Pandora's box of development — once a little bit of development/industrialization is permanently allowed, it's near impossible to remove it. Just ask the snowmobilers of Yellowstone. ✕

Helmet Face Guards

by Stephen W. Tullock, AIA

I have a full face guard and wouldn't think of paddling without it. I use a hockey style guard that screws into place with clips and can easily be removed without removing the helmet in case of head injuries where medical help is needed but removing the helmet may not be advised. To



me it was no different than the full face guard I wore playing little league and high school football. In my case, all it took was one incident snow boarding when I hit the back of my head and blacked out to convince me that helmets and safety gear were pretty darned cool, no matter what the sport.

One upside down excursion into a rock and the rest of your day is blown or worse. I also ride

a motorcycle with a full face helmet. I am very comfortable with a full face helmet and find that if people allow themselves to be open minded, it is usually just a matter of wearing it for a while and getting use to it. Just keep thinking about the extra safety, confidence and peace of mind that it provides.

If you really are uncomfortable wearing a full face guard, try wearing it around the house while watching TV or some other activity, and see if you don't eventually forget all about it.

I know a lot of people who do not want to wear safety gear on motorcycles, kayaking, etc., because "it is confining, uncomfortable, restrictive, unsafe ..." just name your psychosomatic reason. The reality in most cases is that good quality, properly fitting gear quickly becomes comfortable.

Wearing a mask and breathing through scuba gear goes from anxious to relaxing very quickly the first time, if you just clear your mind and see beyond the gear. If you haven't tried it and given it a fair chance, don't knock it until you do. If you have made up your mind before hand, that you don't want to wear it, that it is uncomfortable, claustrophobic, or for what ever reason, you are basing your decision not on fact but fiction.

Go to a good outfitter and let them advise you and

provide a proper fitting. An ill fitting helmet or any piece of safety gear can be worse than useless.

The real question about not using technology to make our sport safer is: WHY? If you knew for sure that on any given outing that a particular piece of gear would mean the difference between a fun uneventful run and death, would you in hindsight wish you had worn it? I know my wife and kids support any effort on my behalf to return home safe, each and every time. Quite frankly they are the only ones that should count when you consider the risks involved in any activity. On the other hand, we have a great risk of being killed in a car accident any day of our lives.

Live life to the fullest, hang out on the edge and drink in all that life has to offer, just be smart about it.

- From the Carolina Canoe Club email list. ✂

River Sense

by Richard Millea

To stay out of trouble? Just some real general observations.

1. Never follow my line (unless I know you are going to) is the best tip I can ever give anyone. I take some major screwed up lines sometimes just to make stuff harder; others have been caught "unaware".



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2. Beware of horizon lines, especially if all you see downstream is the TOPS of very tall trees.
3. Use eddies, they are your friends! Learn to spot them in the midst of a rapid, know what the eddy line is and how to cross it at various spots (top, middle, bottom) since each transition area has it's own dynamics.
4. Slow down; momentum can really work against you. (Hand paddling taught me this one!) Don't go faster than the surrounding water unless there's a real good reason (BIG HOLE).
5. If you need to be on one side at the bottom of a rapid, start from the opposite side and ferry whenever possible, much more control and less momentum developed than just pointing downstream and paddling hard.
6. Focus as far in advance as possible, don't get "tunnel vision" to an area 5 feet from your boat.
7. Be probe on a new (to you) run that's within your skill level. Nothing like a crash course to let you know what you know, or don't. Of course it's always best if there's someone around to let you know where things can go wrong, but that doesn't always happen in real life.
8. Stay away from the sides of the river in big water, especially floods. (Though boating flood waters, where it's out of the bank, is usually only done by people of questionable judgment.)

- From the newsletter of the Viking Canoe Club, Louisville, KY. 

Hypothermia

Extracted from a program by Mike Simpson, EMT

If a sudden, extreme loss of body heat were to happen (for example a cold swim), acute hypothermia may occur. Water is especially dangerous because it has a higher heat capacity (and higher thermal conductivity) than air. In other words, a temperature that is cold for air is damn cold for water. You can prove this to yourself quite easily. First walk naked in 50 degree air. It might feel cool, or even cold, but it is bearable. Now, jump naked into 50 degree water — you'll get my point.

How can hypothermia be prevented

It is important to remember that hypothermia is caused by excessive energy being lost from the body to the outside environment. To prevent hypothermia, we must either lessen heat loss, or increase body heat production.

Lower Heat Loss

- Dress appropriately for the weather (assume that you will swim).
- Don't depend on cotton for insulation, wear wool, fleece or polypro.
- Better a layer you don't need than a layer you don't have.

Increase Heat Production

- Eat and drink. Hot fluids that contain calories are especially good.
- Exercise.

Detecting Hypothermia

When the body senses the onset of hypothermia (and it will before you do), it takes drastic action that may actually do more harm than good. The body reduces blood flow to the extremities — including the brain — to keep the blood in the warmer torso region. The disastrous consequence of this is that you lose dexterity, and more importantly, your thinking gets cloudier than usual. It is many times easier for an observer to see the signs of hypothermia than it is for you.

Symptoms

1. Shivering - forced exercise intended to increase heat production.
2. Numbness in the extremities.
3. Drowsiness and a lack of interest in even simple activities.
4. Slow breathing and pulse rates.
5. Failing eyesight.
6. Unconsciousness.
7. Freezing of body parts.

Treating Hypothermia

The first line of defense is to prevent it. Mild cases can be treated by exercise, food and drink. More advanced cases may need a fire and warm, dry clothing. Caution: the symptoms of hypothermia are similar to those of closed head injury. If someone in your group takes a long, rocky swim, and you think you see the signs of hypothermia, consider the possibility of a head injury.

- From the newsletter of the East Tennessee Whitewater Club. 

A Common Purity

Snow blanket stillness
 Early for November
 Quiets the world of divisions
 Beneath a common purity.
 Foregoing their usual mourning
 Doves whistle through the trees.
 An otter slide speaks
 Of riverbank play.
 Mallards display their beauty at close quarters
 Less wary in the cold radiance.
 Still, the hawk circles an eternal hunt.

- Maury Eldridge, November 2004



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Calling All Wild Water Canoeists — Come Out and Play

by John Pinyerd, USA Wild Water Chairman

North America has a very rich history in canoeing, more so than any other region of the world. Native North Americans may have invented the canoe and certainly popularized the craft as integral part of their transportation. Explorers, voyagers and settlers eventually capitalized on the idea.

Elegant log canoes ultimately became molds for wood plank and wood strip canoes. By the 1870s these smooth-skinned craft were being turned out in numbers in boat building shops of central Canada. Canoes were the essential craft for anyone who wished to experience travel in the Canadian and North American wilderness.

The impact of the North American canoe eventually spilled over to modern canoe and kayak racing, even to the way that the race classes are designated. The International Canoe Federation (ICF) designation for the "C" in C-1 and C-2 stands for Canadian canoe just as the "K" in K-1 designates kayak.

In addition, in wild water and slalom, the majority of the racers needed to fill the ICF classes are canoeists. For example, in wild water a full World Championships team consists of four K-1s, four K-1Ws, four C-1s, and four C-2s (for a total of twelve canoeists and only four men's kayaks and four woman's kayaks).

From the very beginning, North Americans have played a huge role in canoe racing over the years. Perhaps



Race Watch

the most noteworthy accomplishment was America's two decade dominance in slalom canoeing. It began with Jamie McEwan's bronze medal win in the 1972 Olympics and perhaps culminated with the gold medal earned by Scott Strausbaugh/Joe Jacobi in the 1992 Olympics or Davey Hearn's gold medal at the 1995 Worlds.

During this time period, Jon Lugbill, Davey Hearn, Jamie McEwan, Marietta Gilman/Chuck Lyda, Bob Robinson, Kent Ford, and Fritz and

Lecky Haller racked up dozens of medals in international competition and also changed the design of the modern slalom canoe. For a complete list of slalom medallists, please see www.daveyhearn.com.

The Americans have also been successful in wild water canoeing at the international level. Perhaps our greatest single achievement was the "perfect run" at the 1981 Worlds at Bala (GBR) in the C-2 Mixed class that earned Mike Hipsher and Bunny Johns the gold medal. In addition, John Butler proved that we could also compete in C-1 by winning the bronze at the 1985 Worlds in Garmisch (GER).

Our team strength in canoe also showed at the 88 Pre-Worlds when the Americans earned medals in the team runs. Ultimately, Andy Bridge was our most dominate wild water canoeist on the international scene. Bridge won a plethora of World Cups as well as the overall World Cup Champions in 1990. His style of switching sides to match the river conditions was widely adopted by wild water canoeists shortly afterwards.

But if you looked at this year's race results for the Canadian and US National Wild Water Championships (aka the CAN-AMs), as well as this years international results, you would never know of our proud North American history in canoeing excellence. Our rich heritage and the huge participation we once experienced dwindled significantly over the past two decades.

Ironically, there was only one C-boat from Canada (the C-2 team of Winacott/VanWinssen). In short, there is a huge opportunity for Canadian and US wild water canoeists who are willing to train hard to do well in national competition and to compete in international competition.

There is a much bigger story here than a lack of participation in canoe classes at the CAN-AM Wild Water Championships. We are experiencing a similar, although perhaps less drastic drop in canoeing participation at the international level as well. Perhaps this is the result of a change in demographics, buying patterns and outdoor hobbies. And unlike in years past, when many of us learned to canoe at summer camp and then gradually



Veteran USA Wild Water racers Chuck Lyda (stern) & Dan Schnurrenberger (bow) show their skills at the 2003 World Cups in Kernville, CA. Chuck Lyda won his first Gold in C-2 at the '75 Worlds.

migrated into racing canoes, today's kids are all learning to paddle in kayaks. Not only does this mean that we need to continue to develop racers from an even smaller pool of canoeist, it means that we also need to recruit kayakers into racing canoes.

This is a great time to get into wild water. The ICF has designated 2005 as an international development year. All of the '05 World Cup Races are being held in the UK and Ireland, on class II-III rivers that are favorable for growing wild water participation. In addition, Pre-Worlds organizers will also host a Masters Pre-World Championships in conjunction with the 2005 World Cups 5-6 in Bala (GBR). US Wild Water Team Trials will be held March 5-6 on the class 2-3 Nantahala, and is perfect venue choice for a development year (please visit www.USAWildwater.com).

In the Eighties, we used to dream of winning medals in canoe in the team runs at the World Championships. We came close to realizing the dream when we took home several team medals at the '88 Pre-Worlds. Out of our team strength in the '80s, Andy Bridge emerged as a force in international wild water. We could do again!

I'm calling all able-bodied, athletic canoeists to come out and play. Come out and train and race wild water! Now is a great time get back into the sport, or to get started. Let us know how we can help you get started. For more information, contacts, and the 2005 race schedule, please visit www.USAWildwater.com.

Note: GCA Life Member John Pinyerd is a 9-time USA Wild Water Team member, a bronze medallist in international competition, and has won dozens of medals in wild water at the national level. ✂

Book Review

River Chasers

by Susan L. Taft: 375 pp, \$34.95
Flowing Rivers Press: www.alpenbooks.com

Review by Jay Kenney

One of my major laments about paddling is the paucity of really good writing on the subject. The climbing community produces reams of brilliant writing; in comparison, our tribe is a bunch of, well, slackers. So what else is new?

We've produced some great accounts of death and near-disasters (Charlie Walbridge's River Safety Task Force Reports), and guidebooks in which the authors' personalities blaze through (Banks and Eckhardt's CRC2 and Fletcher Andersen's Rivers of the Southwest), but no Joe Taskers or Peter Boardmans, no Messners, no Krakauer. Why?

Climbing is rooted in European universities and the grand Victorian traditions; boating has humbler origins. Climbers can aspire to conquer the highest peaks, the triumph of man over mountain. White water boating rarely allows that kind of fantasy — the river is always in charge. Climbers may spend days tent bound on a high peak with pen and journal in hand; our trips are more often day affairs that end in bars, rather than holed up scribbling in our journals.

Into this void steps Susan L. Taft, author of River Chasers, A History Of American White Water Paddling. The book is a comprehensive survey of American boating since 1945. Taft's story begins in the years after World War II, as new materials and boat construction made exploration possible, and white water clubs were founded.



She writes about the divergence of competition from cruising in the 60s, the golden age of the 70s, the plastic and play boating revolution of the 80s, and the next generation of paddlers in the 90s and beyond. She writes of these changes:

In the mid-70s, if you wanted to paddle white water you joined a club, bought a used boat or built a boat and much of your gear, learned to roll at winter pool sessions, and learned to paddle by getting on the rivers with other club members.... Now you buy your boat and all your gear at a store, buy your instruction from a certified instructor or school, and check the Internet to see what river is up and make arrangements to paddle with someone.... You can just show up at a put-in because there are so many other paddlers around to give you a ride.

The book is well researched and documented, and nicely illustrated with black and white photos. Taft has built on her research background to combine thorough research with a readable and interesting narrative. Every aspect of our sport is included and no geographic region is ignored, though I thought the coverage of western boating was skimpier — a reflection, no doubt, of Taft's own roots with the Ohio Keelhaulers Paddling Club.

- From The Spray — newsletter of the Colorado White Water Association. ✂



Canoe Camping for 2005

by Vincent Payne

We are regrouping the GCA's canoe camping committee. I think we got four or five trips run in 2004. What would be nice to see as a product of this committee is 12 trips, roughly one a month, on the calendar for 2005.

What will the committee do? We will find potential canoe camping trips that the club can include on our trip list. Then we will try to match those trips with trip coordinators. Then get them on the schedule.

What qualifications are required to join the committee? The only qualifications are an interest in canoe camping and the desire to contribute your energy at some

level. We will maybe attend one face-to-face meeting. The rest of the activity can be by phone, email or mail. Experience is an asset but it is far from being the only one. New paddlers are very welcome, as these trips can include all skill groups.

When will this committee start? A small group already exists, but there is room for more people and certainly a need for more trips. We hope to have at least one trip planned for each month. Even if you are strictly a warm weather paddler, we can start planning some trips for when it warms up or even trek to Florida to find summer weather.

How do I sign up? Send an email to Anotherherrerat@bellsouth.net, or call me, Vincent, at 770.834.8263. ☞

Lay That Paddle Down!

by Tom Deschner

To paddle, or not to paddle, that is the question:

Whether 'til nobler in the mind to suffer

The continuous onslaught of water outrageous fortune,

And but ceasing to paddle, end them. Ceasing to paddle,

No more, and by that step to say we end

the pleasure yet the thousand shocks

the flesh is heir to. 'Tis a consummation

Devoutly to be wished.

When to give up paddling, that is a decision that faces all of us in this paddling sport, be it age or deficiencies in our bodies that cause us to question whether we should stop. Paddling is a group sport. So we must factor in the impact we have on the group with whom we are paddling.

If we are a weak paddler and paddling always at the back of the pack on salt water trips, should we expose the group to danger in not keeping up if weather conditions threaten us? On a river, should we put the group in jeopardy by continuously having to be rescued? As we age, our reflexes deteriorate. Our ability to roll departs us. When do we say, "Enough"?

We have all seen on TV the old geek, 80 or so, stumbling along in a marathon; the over-the-hill fighter being battered in his third comeback attempt; the aging basketball player wheezing up the floor. And we have all thought, "Don't they have enough sense to retire?" In kayaking we have to ask ourselves the same thing. "When do we stop?"

Recently I had that decision to make. I am an 84 year old geek who has paddled for 35 years. I am a lousy paddler on a river; my skill level is tepid. On salt water I have a hard time keeping up. Always have. On top of that, I now have Pulmonary Fibrosis, a lung condition that limits your breath and lung capacity, something you need in kayaking.

Recently I had been going on rivers like the Grand Ronde in Oregon at high water levels and cold weather conditions, and relying on the stability of my old Godzilla river kayak to keep me out of trouble. I really should not have been doing this.

I haven't been on a river now in two years. But along comes an opportunity to paddle — the Green, the YoYo

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We are looking for members of all ages and skill levels to "Paddle" every Thursday night at 6:00 PM at Azalea Park on Riverside Road in Roswell.

Club meetings are held on the first and third Thursdays of every month in the pavillion at Azalea Park.

We hope to have a home on the river soon for boat storage and competitions!

For more information contact: roswellpaddle@yahoo.com

stretch. Should I do it?

My son Matt had come out from Chicago and I had set up a trip for him with Gil Bortleson, the Sage of the Green River, to take him down the YoYo stretch. I haven't paddled with Matt for about 25 years. I desperately wanted to paddle with him one more time. Should I do it?

The day of the paddle didn't dawn. It snuck in on drizzling cold rain and low-lying gloom clouds. (Typical of a Gil Bortleson trip.) I stumbled out of bed wheezing like an overloaded steam engine. I had nausea. My whole body screamed at me, "I don't wanna DO this!!!!" But here it was, my only chance.

I assessed my chances. Would I dump in that cold water and not survive the rescue? Slim chance if I stuck to just going straight down the river, not playing, and relying on my waning skills and the stability of my Godzilla to keep me upright. Would I collapse from lack of air and exhaustion? Not if I played it right, just hit the chutes straight, pull into the eddies and wait for the hot shots to do their thing.

So off I went to the Green. As I dragged my Godzilla to the river bank (the water was running 1200 cfs) my stomach was in revolt. I was wheezing heavily. I was exhausted before I even was on the water. My whole body was screaming at me, "Don't do this!!!!!!!"

I pressed on, pulled on my ragged old spray skirt, gripped my Swanson psychedelic paddle, dug in my paddle in a power stroke forward and exposed the bottom of my boat to the onrushing current.

The boat swung around into the current and I was on my way in a ferry to the other shore. Safe in the eddy, I

waited for my companions. They played a while, then down the chute they went. I pulled out and hit the waves head on, with my boat slapping the waves in a "spat, spat, spat." I did this all the way down the river. It felt good.

As we were coming to the end I heard Gil yell, "Lions Jaw coming up!!!!!" I knew this was his old line from the old days which was intended to scare people. By now I was relaxed enough that it bounced off me like the water on my spray skirt. I put in a few power strokes and let the river swallow me in the big waves, enjoying the sound of the waves slapping at my kayak bottom.

Then there it was, the Whitney Bridge and the take-out. I dragged my kayak into the parking lot, wheezing like a steam engine going up the grade. I slumped to the ground with a satisfaction that I will never duplicate. I realized that my future kayaking would probably take place in the Tukwila swimming pool.

So when do we quit? It is a judgment call. If the pain exceeds the pleasure, then stop. (I had a person tell me he stopped because he was always cold. He was wearing a 1/8 inch thick wet suit. I wanted to tell him that a dry suit would have extended his kayaking career.)

If you feel you are a danger to the group, then that is a good reason to stop. If you are always holding up the group on salt water paddles, then maybe you should consider quitting. Listen to your body. It will give you good input. And then maybe you could relax like me and resort to the fun of the warm water in the Tukwila swimming pool. See Ya there!

- From *The Bulletin* — newsletter of the Washington Kayak Club. 

GCA Trips in the Last Twelve Months

**A Compilation of data
by Vincent Payne**

In the last twelve months, GCA listed 158 paddling trips in *The Eddy Line*. The club paddled at least forty rivers in six states (GA, TN, NC, WV, FL, AL). Forty trip coordinators arranged 158 trips. That means an average of about four trips were listed by each.

Ten of the trips were smooth water trips. Averaging two trips apiece, five people coordinated these ten trips. They encompassed at least 12 different rivers mostly in Florida and a few in South Georgia. These rivers tend to be annual events requiring travel. The need appears to be for more trips within the state.

Ten different TCs listed forty-one trips on class I-II rivers. They saw thirteen different rivers across four

states. This category showed the widest selection of rivers.

Class II-III rivers were featured 51 times on the club schedule. The selection only varied between seven rivers in GA and NC. While variety in rivers was low, variety in TCs was high. Nineteen different coordinators listed these trips.

Class III-IV rivers logged 49 trips on nine different rivers in five different states. Thirteen people listed these trips on nine rivers.

Forty trip coordinators arranged 158 trips. That means an average of about four trips each. That is a bit misleading in that 15 posted just one trip and another ten people posted two. If you posted five or more trips, you were in the Top Ten. **Just five people account for 48% of the trips offered.**

This is the single biggest opportunity shown by the data. coordinating one trip is not the problem. In fact, that is the solution. If everyone commits to list just one trip

TABLE A

River Classification	# Trips	# Rivers	# Trips per river	# Trip COs	# Times led trip
Smooth	10	12	1	5	2
I/II	41	13	3	10	4
II/III	57	7	8	19	3
III/IV	49	9	5	13	4

this coming year, events on our trip calendar will increase by five fold. Coordinating one trip on a river or lake in 2005 will take only one day of your time. Pick a date and a river or a lake to which you know the way, then send an email or call Steve Reach 770.760.7357 to commit today to a trip in 2005.

Committing to and planning a paddle trip months in advance ensures it will make it into *The Eddy Line* in time, gives people time to decide and plan to go. If anything happens to prevent you from going as you planned, the trip will probably go on with out you. Someone who wants to go, and can go, will likely step in to keep the boat afloat.

Our river trips appear to be our strong point. We are well balanced across beginner, intermediate and advanced rivers with a slight bump up on intermediate that one would expect to see. Our opportunities include:

- More participants as trip coordinators (Volunteer today)
- More smooth water trips (Gives you plenty of forward stroke practice)

- More canoe/camping trips. (Our camping trips are well attended. If you know how to canoe from your camp, the next level is canoeing into your camp.)

- Increase the number of rivers we routinely run. (Include a river you have run that does not see much of the GCA, such as one from another state, that small creek near your house, that river you've been wanting to explore, or any lake).

- Remember; there are others out there just like you, same skill level, looking for similar rivers, similar adventures. If there is a trip you'd like to do then there are people who would like to join you.

Folks to Thank for Their Generosity in 2004

Top-Five in number of trips [~48% of trips]

Peter Chau	28
Mike Winchester	15
Roger Nott	12
Steve Reach	11
Gina Johnson	10



River Boarding the Grand Canyon

Part 1: Glen Canyon Dam to Phantom Ranch by Alex Weaver

"The Canyon in December. Three well-trained and eager women set out to fulfill a dream thought by some to be impossible, imprudent and ill-conceived: to river board 295 miles, from Glen Canyon Dam to Lake Mead, unassisted by a raft, in the cold waters of winter. That we would succeed is only a small part of the story of joy and adventure, and maybe not the most important part. For this is a story based on the belief that a simple journey is still worth doing. A success is measured not only by distance traveled or the unaccomplished becoming complete, but in the more intangible elements of solitude, new intimacy with the River, teamwork, humor in the face of crisis, flexibility and dogged persistence." - Julie Munger

Julie Munger, 39, is a professional raft guide and kayaker, a veteran of 45 Grand Canyon trips, a Swift Water Rescue and Wilderness First Aid instructor, and a member of the U.S. Women's Rafting Team. After I read

a brief description of her river board trip in the GCPBA Newswire, I thought it sounded like a unique and daring trip. As I talked to Julie about her experience, I came to understand that this trip wasn't another "extreme" river adventure. These women made a journey to become immersed in the River, immersed in the Canyon, and to see it and themselves in a different way.

"The vision for this trip came six years ago from Connie Tibbitts and me.... The original goal: the pure fun of it!" This excitement and optimism hit a few snags before the launch: it took five years to get their first permit. Connie had to pass up the winter trip because of concerns about hypothermia, and when Teresa Yates, Kelley Kalafatich and Julie showed up at Lees Ferry in November of 2000 with river board permit in hand, the rangers refused to allow them to launch, citing a rule that forbids swimming in the Grand Canyon.

Undaunted, the river board team and Ruthie Stoner spent the next three days preparing a 100-page document documenting river board history and use, as well as their qualifications and experience for the trip. But it took a year for the Park Service to decide that the trip could go

ahead, with a November 2001 launch date. "The Park Service really put themselves on the line" for the trip, said Julie. "It was a scary decision for them."

The Carlson river boards that the group used are U.S. Coast Guard approved watercraft, and measure 56" x 24" x 4". "A river board," commented Julie, "is not some flimsy piece of foam, a 'surf mat' or anything like a 'boogie board'. It is made of thick ethafoam with 160 pounds of flotation — much more than your average 'need-help' cushion. The bottom of the board is coated with thin plastic for speed, and there are six plastic handles, attached with through bolts that are rated for extracting people from the water by helicopter. A piece of foam, yes, but an exceptionally big and durable one."

Day 1: Glen Canyon Dam to Lees Ferry, 15 miles

The group began their trip at the base of Glen Canyon Dam on November 25, 2001, three days before their permit date. Julie wrote, "It was an emotional start to the trip, as my Dad accompanied us up river. The last time he had been on that section of River was on a six-week descent of Glen Canyon and Grand Canyon in 1959 on a Sierra Club trip in protest of the dam. His tear-stained cheeks were a testament to someone who knows from real experience what is under the waters of that dam."

On November 28, Julie, Kelley, and Rebecca Rusch finally put in at Lees Ferry. Kelley, 40, and Julie had been adventuring together for years. With Rebecca, 33, they had paddle-raftered the Futaleufu River in Chile, with the U.S. Women's Rafting Team. Kelley, with 20 years' river experience, planned to film the entire river board trip. Rebecca brought her experience as a climber, adventure racer and veteran of 20 Eco-Challenge competitions.

Each woman had two river boards, one for herself and one to carry her 80-100 lb. of dry bags and equipment. The group took all the required equipment, including a fire pan, a container system for solid human waste, and signal mirror — but no satellite phone and no radio. "We were willing to figure things out," Julie said.

The group had "good equipment, good spirits and lots of extra cord and duct tape in case something went wrong. They also had repair kits for their equipment, the first aid supplies and skills to deal with emergencies, and from her experience in the Grand Canyon, Julie knew exactly where and how they could hike out if necessary.

Days 1-3: Trials by Water, Cold and Fire

Imagine this 19-day river trip in winter. You're immersed in 48° F water for five hours a day, and the air temperature is somewhere between 35° and 45° F. The winter days are short, and the river days are even shorter because you are in a thousand-foot-deep canyon. You're lying on one river board and holding on to the other,

leaning your board and kicking to propel yourself and steer the board. You're wearing a dry suit to keep your body warm and dry, with neoprene gloves on your wet hands, and Gore-Tex socks, Sealskinz socks, booties and fins on your immersed feet.

Julie knew that staying warm would be a challenge. She saw it as part of the adventure, and planned for the cold water and hours of immersion. "Bill Beer and John Daggett [who swam the Grand Canyon in 1955] had convinced us that the amount of fun we would have would be directly proportional to how dry we could keep our sleeping bags, camp clothes and food."

Waterproofing turned out to be easy, thanks to their "unbelievable" Watershed dry bags. Keeping warm was more difficult. Rebecca's and Kelley's dry suits leaked from Day 1, and they quickly arranged an emergency shipment of dry suit gaskets and feet from NRS in Idaho.

Two friends hiked in with the gaskets from Marble Canyon to Badger, 8 miles downstream from Lees Ferry. Even after the repairs, the diving dry suits leaked, and Rebecca and Kelley spent the rest of the trip wearing two dry suits, or a dry suit with a wet suit underneath.

The three also spent a lot of time early in the trip adjusting their gear board loading and handling to prevent flips. They finally settled on low, wide loads, and holding on to the gear boards rather than towing or pushing them.

They ran smoothly through the first big rapids, with the river flowing at about 8,000 cfs the first few days; from Hance Rapid down, the flow was 12,000-17,000 cfs, an ideal level for their trip.

But there was a bigger challenge ahead. On the evening of Day 3, at South Canyon, a camp stove started leaking white gas and the plume of flame ignited Rebecca's hand and jacket sleeve. Julie said that this was one of the most frightening parts of the trip. Through the night, she woke up worried about her friend, unsure whether the burns were second- or third-degree (partial or full thickness).

"Fortunately for us, her burns were only partial thickness and we were able to manage them each day by individually wrapping her fingers with gauze and tape, and further protecting them in a surgical glove."

Rebecca dealt with the pain using her experience as an adventure racer, plus a combination of Ibuprofen and whiskey at night.

Day 7: Phantom Ranch, 103 miles

The group reached Phantom Ranch on December 4, under rain and "dark, ominous clouds". The Phantom Ranch employees gave them food and liquids, kept them warm and dry, and the Rangers replenished their first aid kit. Julie wrote, "When we left Phantom, our new friends

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waved to us from the bridge. It is a feeling of warmth and encouragement that I will never forget, and gave us extra chutzpah for the rapids to come!"

"The rapids to come" in the 15 miles below Phantom Ranch are some of the biggest in the Grand Canyon: Granite, Hermit, and Crystal, each of which rates class 9 or higher on the class 1 to 10 Western Scale.

In Part 2 of this story (in the February 2005 Eddy Line),

the river boarders travel from Phantom Ranch to Pierce Ferry, find solitude and snow, and Julie disappears underwater in Lava. But she says of Crystal: "Piece of cake. Crystal is easy, you just stay on the inside."

- From The Spray — newsletter of the Colorado White Water Association.

Thanks to Julie Munger for her contributions to this article.



CLASSIFIED ADS

TO PLACE AN AD - Want ads of a non-business nature are free to dues-paid GCA members. Business-related and non-member ads are \$5.00 for up to 50 words, \$10.00 for larger. Send your type-written ad to: Allen Hedden, 2923 Piedmont Dr., Marietta, Ga. 30066, or email to gacanoe@mindspring.com. PLEASE, NO PHONED-IN OR HAND-WRITTEN ADS. All ads will be run for two issues unless otherwise requested.

FOR SALE - Canoe, Old Town Penobscot. Like new, 16' 2" long, 34" wide, weight 58 lb., 860 lb. capacity. Very stable. Good for mild white water and flat water. Paddles well tandem or solo. Perfect for canoe/camping. Made of Ontalar RoyaleX. \$700. 770.834.2151.

FOR SALE - Canoe, Dagger Quake OC-1 play boat, \$400, good condition, red, with saddle and air bags. Specs: 8.8 ft., rotomolded polyethelene. View picture at: http://www.epinions.com/otdr_Canoeing_Whitewater-Dagger-Quake/display_~full_specs. "The Quake is Dagger's hottest white water canoe and our first rotationally molded canoe. Conforming to the National Organization of White Water Rodeos specifications, the Quake has molded-in decks, low volume ends for easier initiation and high sides for dryness." See boat in Woodstock GA. loish@peoplepc.com, 770.592.6421.

FOR SALE - Canoe, Mad River Outrage X, 13', excellent solo boat for beginner or advanced paddler 190 lbs and above in weight. Professionally outfitted with premium equipment. Like new condition. Over \$1400 invested, will sell for \$1250 or accept partial trade for larger solo boat (Sunburst, Whitesell, etc.). Call Alan @ 770.534.5857.

FOR SALE - Dry suit, Kokatat - great condition - rear entry - XL - cobalt blue w/red trim - new neck and

ankle gaskets - \$125. This dry suit has adjustable neck, wrist, and ankle cuffs, and an adjustable waist spray tunnel - metal tooth waterproof zipper. Mark Levine, 404.376.7162, c1paddle@mindspring.com.

FOR SALE - Sea kayak, touring, Necky Looksha IV, color-matching cockpit cover, color-matching skirt. Like new, paddled once, always kept in dark basement. Kayak located in Roswell. \$800. 706.782.0754 or try 770.641.1268 first, or mhiggins@mindspring.com.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Perception Dancer XS. Excellent condition. White water boat for small paddler. (Wt 50-90 lb). \$350. Call Doug in Avondale 404.217.0224.

FOR SALE - Kayaks & equipment. Kayak closeout. Individual selling all. 3 Cobra Tourers: sea and touring sit-on-top kayaks, two solo, one tandem, each with back rest, leg straps, large dive tank well and additional hatches, great for camping, ocean and lake paddling, used once, \$500 each. Also for sale two white water Piranha kayaks: one sit-on-top Surf Jet with skeg, paddle, \$250; also Creek 280, \$300. Also for sale two pairs of monsoon pants, like new, one adult small, one medium, \$20 each; two paddling jackets, one adult small, one large, \$25 each. 706.636.2837.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Wavesport Godzilla - good + condition - red and black swirl - \$325. Specs: length 8 ft 11 in, width 25.30 in, vol. 60.00 gal, weight 40.00 lbs, cockpit n/a, capacity 120 to 240 lbs, material n/a, 1st yr 1997, last yr 2000. Main use: river runner, old school. Wavesport's take: A river runner for big guys and self-supported paddling. Comfortable on creeks or your favorite local run, its got the shape to take your play skills to the next level. Try one and see why so many paddlers give Godzilla the

call for all types of river-running adventures. Mark Levine, 404.376.7162, c1paddle@mindspring.com.

FOR SALE - Yakima car rack: includes four Q-towers (Q5-A) with locking cores, four clips for a Bonneville, two round 78" cross bars, and four gunwale brackets. I used it for a pair of tandems but I have had as many as four boats on it for shuttles. You can cut the 78" crossbars to suit. This rack can fit an assortment of vehicles: Accord, Odyssey, Grand Am, 626, Le Sabre, Blazer and some others. New cost \$240, asking \$120. Vincent Payne 770.834.8263 evening, 404.267.4674 day.

HELP WANTED - Yes, the GCA needs your help. We need members to serve on committees, label and mail newsletters, etc. Call 770.421.9729, leave a message. ✉

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